AUGUST 4, 2009 -- WHITE SANDS, NEW MEXICO -- The Non-Line of Sight-Launch System (NLOS-LS) marked another major milestone with its most recent flight test—GTV-11 as it targeted and hit a moving T-72 using its uncooled imaging infrared seeker.

“The ability for the PAM missile to defeat a moving target with indirect fires using an uncooled imaging infrared seeker is a “first” for the Army. Once fielded, NLOS-LS is going to give soldiers in the Brigade Combat Teams and sailors on Littoral Combat Ships the ability to precisely engage moving targets, a capability they’ve never had before,” According to Colonel Doug Dever, NLOS-LS Project Manager.

The NLOS-LS is one of the technologies under development for the Army’s Brigade Combat Team Modernization effort and will be included in capability packages fielded to Soldiers. The system is also being developed as a protection system for the Navy’s Littoral Combat Ships. Testing on the system will continue through winter 2010 and build to a Low Rate Initial Production decision in April

The system's Precision Attack Missile can operate in different modes that vary in missile autonomy. It supports laser-designated, laser-anointed and autonomous operation modes. If a target is not moving, the missile can also rely solely on GPS-provided target data. The missile can also send images of the target back to the command and control center right before impact.

While guiding to the designated target, the PAM missile joined the network with its onboard radio and operated as a node on the network throughout the flight. The missile also sent back terminal target images to the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) prior to impact.

NLOS-LS takes targeting information via AFATDS from the command and control center and sends the info to the NLOS-LS CLU’s computer and communications system
for initial missile targeting. The missile also receives real-time targeting information from the command and control center for in-flight target updates. This network capability will provide the Brigade Combat Team with unprecedented beyond line-of-sight target lethality.

The GTV-11 missile test is the latest in a series of 18 flight tests which are scheduled for completion in December 2009. The final series of Guided Test Flights will occur at the Cold Regions Test Center in Ft Greely, Alaska.

NLOS-LS is platform-independent, self-contained and compatible with current and future command and control systems. NLOS-LS consists of the container launch unit (CLU) and a precision attack missile (PAM. NLOS-LS is planned for initial fielding to the Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCT) and the Navy’s Littoral Combat Ships.

NLOS-LS can be transported on a number of platforms, including C-17 and C-130 aircraft. The program has demonstrated an air drop capability at Ft. Bragg, NC, and sling-mode transport on a UH-60L Blackhawk.